

DENBY DALE
URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1941

URBAN DISTRICT OF DENBY DALE

LIST OF COUNCILLORS

For Year 1941

-;-:-:-;-

Chairman; Lt. Col. H. S. JACKSON J.P.

Vice-Chairman: H. BEDFORD Esq.

F. BOOTH Esq. (obit Oct. 15)
F. BATES Esq. (elect. Sept. 2)
H. BATES Esq.
J. M. DEW Esq.
H. FERGUSON Esq.
T. E. FIELD Esq.
E. HIRST Esq.
H. HINCHLIFFE Esq. J.P.
W. A. HEAP Esq. (obit July 31)
N. IBBOTSON Esq.

J. KENYON Esq.
C. H. MOXON Esq.
H. MATHERS Esq. J.P.
H. MOUNTAIN Esq.
H. N. NAYLOR Esq.
Major C. V. RIGBY
G. H. SENIOR Esq. J.P.
Lt. Col. G. TAYLOR (serving Abroad)
W. H. TOWNSEND Esq. (elect. Dec. 2)
J. WRAY Esq.

Officers of the Council

-;-:-:-;-

Clerk: J. Haigh

Medical Officer: Dr. D. Bell, M.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector: F. Greenwood, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Surveyor, Water Engineer and Cleansing Superintendent:

E. E. B. Harrison, A.M.I.M.C.E.

Financial Officer: A. Senior, A.C.R.A.

Collectors: C. E. Taylor and F. Matthewman.

Council Office: Huddersfield Road, Skelmanthorpe,

Telephone: Skelmanthorpe 3141.

Surveyor's and Sanitary Inspector's Office:


Wakefield Road, Denby Dale,

Telephone: Skelmanthorpe 3101.

Medical Officer: The Cliff, Skelmanthorpe,

Telephone: Skelmanthorpe 2239.

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Members of the
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DENBY DALE

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1941.

The report has been curtailed in accordance with the Ministry of Health's instructions but the main facts necessary for the keeping of accurate records for future reference, are included.

The portion of the report relating to the Sanitary Circumstances of the area has been prepared by the Sanitary Inspector.

The health of the District, apart from epidemic Measles and Whooping Cough, is very good. In my opinion the somewhat restricted war-time diet has not adversely affected the well-being or health of the people. I feel that the opposite is the case. We are getting ample nourishment to maintain good health and can, if necessary, maintain life on much harder rationing. We may miss many of the little dainties which served to make life a little more pleasant although these are not necessary to maintain it.

I have to thank the Sanitary Inspector for his help. I am pleased to say that with all the extra work which the war has entailed for both of us, the health of your area has not suffered in consequence.

I feel that I must add a note with respect to evacuated children, of which there were about 350 in the area at the end of the year. Their general health condition improved very soon after their arrival. Many of them suffered from various forms of illness traceable to "blitz" conditions. Some of them had to be taken to Clinics before they could be taken by the foster mothers into clean well kept cottages. I feel that sincere thanks are due to these foster mothers. Few people are aware what has been necessary and what sacrifices have been made to make the children happy and contented. They certainly have improved in physique.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DOUGLAS BELL, M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A. - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,165 acres
Maximum elevation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,050 ft.
Minimum elevation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	283 ft.
Population - Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid-1941								9,666
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...				3,156
Number of above houses which rank as "working Class"								2,850
Number of new houses completed in 1941 :-								

By the Council ... 0 Others ... 1

Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£36,267
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£144. 3. 5

VITAL STATISTICS

				Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	(Legitimate	...	...	136	66	70	) Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population mid-1941 - 14.17
	(Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	0	
Still Births	...	...	...	4	1	3	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births - 28.36
Deaths	...	...	...	121	63	58	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population - 12.5

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List) :-

					Deaths
No.29	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	0
No.30	Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	0
Total	...	...	...	...	0

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :-

All infants per 1,000 live births	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	21.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	7.2

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	18
" " Measles (all ages)	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0
" " Cardiac Diseases	38
" " Other Circulatory causes	4
" " Pneumonia	4
" " Tuberculosis	2

(1 M. 1F.)

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Ambulance facilities - For infectious cases a Motor Ambulance is maintained by the Joint Isolation Hospital Committee.

For accident and urgent sickness cases a privately owned motor ambulance serves this area and an adjoining area. It is subsidised by this Council and the adjoining local authority. Its service has been good and reliable and it is available day and night. There is no charge for conveyance within the area or from the area to the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, but a charge is made for conveyance to places farther away.

An ambulance maintained by the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary under a Contributory Scheme is also available to contributors for a small charge.

Hospitals - Infectious diseases are treated at the Penistone Joint Isolation Hospital which is situate a short distance outside the area. The Hospital is controlled by a joint Committee of representatives of the constituent authorities.

For smallpox there is a separate small hospital situate in the same neighbourhood and controlled by the same Committee. No change or extension of these premises has taken place during the year.

General and accident cases are received by the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

There is no local cottage hospital and there are no maternity homes.

SECTION E - PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Table I. Shows notifications received of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	1	-
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Measles	86	-	-
Pneumonia	26	-	4
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	4	3	1
Acute Polio-myelitis	1	1	-
Whooping Cough	73	-	-

TABLE II. Shows the age distribution of certain of the Notified Infectious Diseases.

	AGE GROUPS												
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	4
Totals	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	2	-	1	-	8

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES

Respiratory - 1 male (35 yrs) 1 female (11 yrs)

Non-respiratory - 3 males (12-13 yrs) 1 female (3 yrs)

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

An epidemic of Measles and Whooping Cough has carried on from the Autumn of 1940 practically throughout the year but there has been no death from either cause. Pneumonia has been somewhat prevalent mainly amongst children. Few cases have been associated with either of the above named diseases. Diphtheria cases notified were two. Very few children were treated by immunization during the year but I am glad to say that since January 1942 this has been largely rectified after advertisement by cinema and radio.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Distribution. A piped supply distributed by the Council is available throughout the area except for a number of isolated premises. During the year, 1 new house and 6 old houses were connected. The total numbers are - connected 3017; unconnected 138.

Bacteriological Examination. Samples have been taken regularly of the water in use and also for observation purposes of the Rusby Springs. The following Table shows the results of these tests.

Date of Sampling year 1941	Jan 16	Mar 17	Apr 24	May 29	June 26	July 24	Aug 21	Sept 18	Oct 16	Nov 13	Dec 11
<u>Rusby Reservoir</u> <u>Old Spring</u> Presumptive B. Coli per 100 m.l. of water Reported as satisfactory	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes
<u>Rusby Reservoir</u> <u>New Wells</u> Presumptive B. Coli per 100 m.l. of water Reported as satisfactory	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	6 doubt- ful	0 yes	1 yes	20 no	0 yes	0 yes
<u>Dewsbury & Heckmondwike</u> <u>Waterworks Board Supply</u> Presumptive B. Coli per 100 m.l. of water Reported as satisfactory	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes	0 yes
<u>Huddersfield Corporation</u> <u>Supply</u> Presumptive B. Coli per 100 m.l. of water Reported as satisfactory							0 yes				

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A number of the outlying parts of the area still remain unsewered or only partly sewerred. There are five separate outfall works for sewage disposal. No complaints have been received from the West Riding Rivers Board with respect to the effluent.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Very little pollution from domestic sewage occurs. The West Riding Rivers Board have control in the area.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The Council make a small grant towards the cost of the conversion of privy closets to the water carriage system. Progress has of course been affected by wartime conditions. The following summary shows the changes in the accommodation which have taken place during the year :-

No. of privies reconstructed - as W.C.s	11, as privies	0
No. of privies abolished, (redundant)	-	1
No. of additional W.C.s for old premises	-	7
No. of W.C.s provided for new houses	-	0
No. of W.C.s provided for other new premises	-	3
No. of privies provided for new houses	-	1

During the previous five years the number of privies converted to the water-carriage system in the areas now included in the combined area was :-

1936 - 26; 1937 - 64; 1938 - 61; 1939 - 57; 1940- 18.

The accommodation existing at the end of this year is as detailed hereunder :-

Privies with open middens	33
Privies with covered middens (approx)	1598
Pail closets	6
Waterclosets	2042
Waste water closets	0

PUBLIC CLEANSING

This work is under the control of the Surveyor. Collection is carried out by the Council's motor vehicles and occasional hired horse drawn vehicles. Disposal of the refuse is by tipping on the uncontrolled system. The cost of collection and disposal was £1,712.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Number and nature of Inspections and Visits made

Investigating complaints	45
Property under notice	58
Work in progress	47
Measuring houses for "Permitted Number" of occupants	4
Revisits to overcrowded houses	4
Houses and other premises requisitioned for evacuees	37
Fumigation of unoccupied dirty house	1
School	1
Factories (including 4 Bakehouses)	7
Shop, under the Shops Act	1
Infectious disease - enquiries and disinfections	13
Cowsheds	160
Meat and other food shops	4
Slaughter-house (Government controlled)	267
Slaughter-houses (Private)	74
Farms etc. inspecting pigs slaughtered under licence ...	61
Taking samples of milk, for Methlene Blue Test	16
Taking samples of water - Council's supplies	32
Taking samples of water - Private supplies	5
Interviews with property owners	25
Miscellaneous visits	114

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Note:- For inspections under the Housing Act, see Section D of report.
 On other duties the following visits have also been made -

As Enforcement Inspector under Food Control	40
As Inspector Under Petroleum Acts	38

REMOVAL OF NUISANCES

NUMBER AND NATURE OF DEFECTS FOUND AT 45 PREMISES

Drains requiring connecting to the sewer	1
Drains untrapped	1
Drains choked	5
Privy closets requiring conversion to W.C. system	9
Privy closets requiring abolishing	1
Privy closets requiring repair	5
Additional W.C.s required	5
W.C.s choked	3
Sink defective	1
Roofing defective	1
Smoke nuisance in houses	2
Nuisance from coal gas entering house	1
House in dirty condition	1
House infested with cockroaches	1
Factory with defective closet accommodation	1

Defects under Milk & Dairies Orders :-

Cowsheds not limewashed at appointed time	5
Milk rooms required	2
Registration contravention	1

Defects under the Shops Act :-

Shop without means of heating	1
-------------------------------------	---

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Of these defects 38 were remedied and also 10 defects outstanding from the previous year.

<u>NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED</u>	Informal 12,	complied with 9
	Statutory 7,	complied with 5

SUMMONSES AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS - None

SHOPS ACT, 1934

One defect under section 10 (1) has been found and remedied, namely lack of means to provide a reasonable temperature.

CAMPING SITES - There are no sites in the area for camping purposes subject to the licencing provisions of the Public Health Act.

SMOKE ABATEMENT - This matter is subject to emergency regulations.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS - There is one swimming bath only in the area. This is owned by the local Miners' Welfare Fund Trustees. It is a modern covered bath fitted with a chlorination and filtration apparatus operated in the continuous system. Daily tests of the bath water for chlorine content are carried out by the superintendent in charge. No samples have been taken for submission to the County Laboratory owing to the curtailment of facilities due to wartime conditions.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS - No cases of infestation have been found.

SCHOOLS - All the schools are in a good sanitary condition and have the Council's water supply installed. The privy system remains at two schools but in one case the sewerage system is not suitable for the installation of the water-carriage system.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Form 572)

No return of statistics in this form required this year.

SECTION D - HOUSING

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR

Six houses have been inspected under the Housing Act. Defective conditions were found in each case. Two houses were found to be unfit and 4 houses to be not in all respects fit.

REMEDY OF DEFECTS - Seven houses have been made fit during the year and partial repairs have been done in other cases. Informal action resulted in one of the unfit houses referred to above being closed. This house is attached to farm premises. After being used for storage purposes for a number of years it was let by the tenant farmer, without reconditioning, to a farm worker. This was done without the estate agent's consent. The occupation was for a few weeks only and was terminated by the farm worker getting employment elsewhere. Upon the intervention of the Estate Agent the house was relegated to its previous use as a farm-store.

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

Unsafe roof conditions in addition to other defects necessitated consideration of the making of a Demolition Order in respect of the other unfit house referred to above, to prevent its re-occupation. The owner submitted an offer to the Council with respect to carrying out of repairs. This offer was accepted provisionally, subject to the submission of a list of works proposed to be carried out. This list, however, had not been submitted up to the time of drafting of this report. I beg to observe that all the reconditioning possible to this house cannot remove defects due to the bad arrangement of the premises internally and externally. This house still remains unoccupied.

OVERCROWDING

At the end of last year 12 houses were overcrowded. Four new cases were added to the list during the year and 5 houses became de-crowded, leaving a total of 11 at the end of this year. Of the 5 cases abated, 2 were rehoused by the Council; 1 found other accommodation; 2 were abated by decrease in the size of the families.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY - The bulk of the supply is produced in the area and is mainly distributed by the producers. Generally the premises are maintained in a satisfactory condition. Slight progress has been made with the provision of milk rooms and sterilising apparatus. Licences for the production of milk under the Special Designation Order, are granted by the County Council who also carry out the sampling of milk sold under this Order. No additions have been made to the number of licences in force for the production of "Accredited Milk". No licences are in force for the production of "Tuberculin Tested Milk" or "Pasteurised Milk". No retailers have been removed from the register in respect of proceedings under the Milk & Dairies Order. There were no instances of disease attributed to milk during the year.

No. of Registered Cowkeepers	93
" " "Accredited Milk" producers	21
" " Wholesale traders	13
" " Retail milk sellers	69
" " Cowsheds registered 147, No. in use	131
" " Milch cows in the area (approx) ...	1100
" " Samples of ordinary milk taken for	
Methylene Blue Test	15 (satisfactory 10)
" " Samples of ordinary milk taken for	
presence of Tuberculosis	0 (see note 1)
" " Samples of Designated milk	1 (see note 2)

NOTE (1) - A number of samples submitted for the Methylene Blue Test are at the discretion of the County Laboratory submitted to a further test for the presence of Tuberculosis. No reports are received of such tests, but positive cases are dealt with by the Veterinary examination of the herd concerned.

NOTE (2) - Copies of the reports on samples taken by the County Council's staff of Designated Milk are forwarded to this Council for information purposes. During the year 44 of such reports were received.

MEAT SUPPLY - There is no Public Abattoir provided in the area. There are 14 licenced slaughter-houses. These have been disused owing to wartime restrictions except for occasional slaughtering during a part of the year, of cottagers and farmers' pigs under Food Control permits. During the latter part of the year, however, the Food Control Regulations further restricted the use of these slaughter-houses by requiring such pigs to be slaughtered either at the Food Control Slaughter-house or on the pig-keepers own premises. This resulted in many cases of slaughter being carried out in unsatisfactory conditions and also entailed many special journeys being made to outlying premises for the purpose of inspecting the carcasses.

Since January 15th 1940 the slaughtering of the animals for the meat supply of this area has been carried out at a Government controlled slaughter-house within the area. Details of the carcasses inspected in the various premises are contained in the accompanying tabulated statement. In 12 instances of Bovine Tuberculosis, the animals were sent in for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Order of Cattle.

A number of animals affected with illness or injuries were brought in for emergency slaughter. In normal times some of these animals would have been dealt with in other areas.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	255	269	49	3265	483
<u>Diseases and injuries excluding Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	5	2	12	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	10	51	4	90	18
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease <u>other than Tuberculosis</u>	4.31	20.8	12.24	3.12	3.93
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	13	0	0	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	22	69	0	2	16
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	9.8	30.48	0	.06	3.93

NOTE - Imported frozen carcasses are not included in the above figures.

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OTHER FOODS - The premises registered for the purpose of making up and preparing foodstuffs, ice-cream etc. are all maintained in a satisfactory condition.

ADULTERATION OF FOODS - This matter is under the control of the County Council. The following particulars have been extracted from information supplied by the County Food and Drugs Officer on action in this area.

Samples taken - Milk 61, General Foods 15
 Prosecutions - For selling milk with added water - 1
 Cautions - For selling milk deficient in fats - 2
 Cautions - For selling milk with added water - 1

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ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 - Part 3
 Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 - Part 2
 Public Health Act, 1925 - Part 2
 Private Street Works Act, 1892 - The Whole.

REGULATIONS IN FORCE

Regulations directing the "material, size and construction" of dustbins for house refuse, adopted 6th June 1939, under the provisions of section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

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